Utah State Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Substance Abuse Services for the Criminal Justice Population FY2003 Fact Sheet

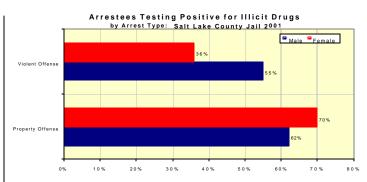
The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) provides resources and programming designed to address the specific needs of the criminal justice population. These programs recognize that substance abuse is a chronic, progressive, relapsing disorder that can be successfully treated. There is a growing body of research that suggests that treatment reduces substance abuse, decreases recidivism, and saves tax dollars.

In Utah, the arrest rate for possession of dangerous drugs increased significantly between 2001 and 2002. The chart below shows data from 1990 to 2002.



In 2002, the arrest rate was up 31% to 147 arrests per 100,000. This rate is nearly equal to the highest rate over the past decade (1996) of 154 arrests per 100,000. Comparing the 2002 arrest rate for possession of other dangerous drugs with the rate from 1990, the 2002 arrest rate was six times higher than the 1990 arrest rate. (In 1990 there were only 23 arrests per 100,000.)

Regardless of the type of offense or gender, most offenders have an alcohol or other drug problem. The following chart illustrates the percentage of arrestees in Salt Lake County testing positive for illicit drugs.



In addition, a study conducted by the DSAMH in 2001 found that 69.9% of inmates in Utah's prison system are in need of drug or alcohol treatment. The survey asked about lifetime use of specific illegal drugs. The results indicate 79.6% had used marijuana, 57.4% had used methamphetamine, 52.5% had used cocaine, and 16.7% had used heroin. Very few of these offenders receive adequate treatment prior to release on parole.

Utah Drug Courts

- Drug Courts provide judicially monitored substance abuse treatment, random and frequent drug tests, and intensive case management services.
- There are 26 drug courts currently operating:
 - 11 Felony Drug Courts
 - 4 Misdemeanor Drug Courts
 - 5 Juvenile Drug Courts
 - 5 Family/Dependency Drug Courts
 - 1 Dual Model Drug Court
- 17 drug courts receive funding from the Tobacco Settlement Account.
- At any given time, close to 1,800 Utahans are participating in a drug court.
- Since 1996, 4,000 people have enrolled in a drug court program.

Drug Court Outcomes

- At least five independent evaluations have shown Drug Courts significantly reduce substance abuse and recidivism.
- The cost is 45% less for an offender to participate in Drug Court for one year than to place an offender in jail for 90 days.
- Participation in Drug Court reduces drug related recidivism by 30%.

Utah's Drug Board

- Drug Board is a collaborative effort of the Board of Pardons and Parole, Utah Department of Corrections, Weber Human Services and Davis Behavioral Health.
- The program provides substance abuse treatment monitored by the Board of Pardons and Parole.
- The Drug Board accepts parolees from the State prison system who are in need of substance abuse treatment.
- Parolees in jeopardy of returning to prison due to use of illicit substances are also eligible for this program.

Drug Board Outcomes

- 26 graduates have completed the program successfully.
- 67% of participants obtain full time employment.
- 88% of participants report abstinence from alcohol.
- 95% of drug tests are negative for illicit drugs.

Collaborative Interventions for Addicted Offenders (CIAO)

- CIAO is an assessment-driven process.
- CIAO creates treatment slots for parolees and probationers in each of the local substance abuse authority areas throughout the state.
- CIAO provides a seamless transition from prison or jail to substance abuse treatment.
- CIAO provides enhanced coordination of supervision and treatment services.

Outcomes

- Almost 60% of offenders complete treatment successfully.
- Employment rates increase 13% from intake to discharge.
- Treatment episode data (TEDS) show significant reduction in drug use.

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